

PEACE NEWS

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THE PROBLEM OF THE DISPLACED PERSONS

A million human beings deprived of a private life

SINCE the end of the second world war over five million DPs have been repatriated to various countries. Today, another million human beings, who have been classified as "not repatriable" by the Allied authorities, are waiting to start a new life.

This million, consisting of 180,000 members of the Baltic States, 170,000 Jews, and the rest of Yugoslavs, Poles, Rumanians, Russians, who are not willing to return to their native countries, is one of the most difficult problems which the social council of UNO is trying to solve.

A discouraging reply

Nearly twelve months ago, the economic and social council of UNO appealed to its members, in the form of a questionnaire, asking how far they were willing to open their gates for the last million DPs. It sounds very discouraging that only 23 States replied to this appeal. More than half of the UNO members ignored the questionnaire.

Brazil was one of the first countries willing to admit 100,000 to 200,000 emigrants. Gt. Britain has already welcomed the first batch of the 2,000 DPs who will find new homes in the United Kingdom. America replied that only the U.S. quota system of 3,900 DPs from Central and Eastern Europe could be admitted per month. France was willing to accept 5,000. The Argentine was also in favour of admitting a greater number of DPs, but only if they were specialists.

Births equal deaths

A year ago, during his Continental journey, La Guardia tried to liquidate the DP problem by appealing to these people without a country to go home, in spite of the political and economic conditions in which they would find their former fatherland. The majority of Baltic and Ukraine DPs ignored La Guardia's speech. The hope of UNO that by the middle of 1947 the number of DPs would have decreased to 50,000 is today obviously an illusion. Through the hard winter of 1947 the homeless people of Central Europe have increased, and the birth figures seem to be equivalent to the death rate.

Camp life and morals

Inside our so-called civilised world are living one million human beings who are deprived of a private life. Their lives in camps have contributed to ruining their morals. It is in these camps where the great word "Tragedy" finds its real meaning.

One million human beings seem to be condemned to witness their own decline, as the world of plenty has no room for them. If the "lost million" have to face another winter like the previous one in the unheated camps, then the figure of 50,000 DPs will be reached by the Spring of 1948. But the human conscience of the world politicians will be loaded with the same burden and guilt for which we once condemned the leaders of the Third Reich.

JOSEF GETA.

GERMAN WAR RESISTERS' FIRST POST-WAR CONFERENCE

Page two: OSWALD GARRISON VILLARD - on
THE AMERICAN DRIFT TO MILITARISM

THE first post-war gathering of pacifists in Germany took place at Hamburg during the week-end of June 14-16, 1947, when the various German sections of the War Resisters' International met in conference. Since the war the following sections have been reformed: Berlin, Cologne, Aachen, Dortmund, Freiberg and Hamburg, while groups are in process of formation at Stuttgart, Dusseldorf and Munich.

The conference was largely the result of the initiative and enthusiasm of Dr. Theodor Michaltsheff of Hamburg, who is an old member of the WRI Council. Other Council members present were Frau Hesse, of Aachen, Eduard Damm, of Dortmund, and Karl Struve, of Hamburg. Frieberg was represented by Herr Braun, Hanover by Max Stierwald, Stuttgart by Frau Louise-Link, Munich by V. M. Dyk, and Berlin by Dr. Maas. The members of the Hamburg section attended in full strength and included a group of keen young students from the university.

In addition to the German representatives there was a fraternal delegate from Denmark, Holland and Sweden, while Grace Beaton and Runham Brown were present to represent the WRI, and I had the privilege of attending on behalf of the Peace Pledge Union.

OFFICIAL CONSENT

It was interesting and encouraging to learn at the outset of the conference that Dr. Michaltsheff had just received the Military Government permit authorising the WRI to function in the British and American Zones for a provisional period of three months—a preliminary to what will no doubt be permanent permission. We heard too, that Fritz Kuster has obtained permission to re-publish Das Andere Deutschland, and hopes to produce the first number of the new series in September.

The Conference opened in a hut recently erected by an IVSP (International Voluntary Service for Peace) team in the grounds of the Swedish Red Cross Section of the German Red Cross Headquarters. Unfortunately, owing to the difficulties of travel I was not able to be present at the first session, which in typical German fashion, started at 8.30 on the Saturday morning.

After some music, and speeches of welcome, Wilhelm Heydorn opened a discussion on "Violence and Non-Violence." The second session was

—by—

STUART MORRIS

General Secretary of the Peace Pledge Union who attended the conference and also addressed public meetings in Hamburg and Berlin.

concerned with discussing the relationship between East and West, particularly of course, in reference to the division of Germany, and the danger of the establishment of a conflicting Eastern and Western block in Europe. Heinz Kraschutski, of Berlin, who was to have opened the discussion, was unable to be present, but his interesting paper was read by the chairman. After an interval for lunch, the representatives from Hamburg, Cologne, Munich and Freiburg gave some accounts of the growth of the WRI in their different districts.

I had been asked to give a review of the British War Resistance movement at the final session on Saturday, and I had a large audience eager to know what had happened since September, 1939, how we were tackling our own post-war problems, and what we were really doing to help Germany.

On Sunday morning a public meeting was held in a large school hall, and a representative and interested audience listened for three and a half hours to a series of speeches concerned with different aspects of the War Resistance movement.

HELP APPRECIATED

I had a further opportunity of speaking at this public meeting, and I was able to convey the greetings of the PPU, to express our sense of fellowship with them through a mutual recognition of guilt for past wrongs, through a readiness to share in present sufferings, and through a common hope and purpose for the future. Again I found a deep appreciation of anything we may have been able to do, whether through the sending of food parcels, association with prisoners of war, or on the larger plane of endeavouring to secure those policies which would enable Germany to take its place once more in the full association of the other nations.

For the afternoon session on Sunday, we moved to the hall of what had

been a well-known café for a discussion on War from the standpoint of the WRI. Grace Beaton and Runham Brown had arrived in time for this session, which opened with a short speech by the chairman of the WRI, and a more extensive survey of the whole situation by Grace Beaton.

There then followed five speeches dealing with the religious, ethical, political, humanitarian and economic aspects. After a short interval, the rest of the evening was spent in a very interesting discussion, which showed that the pacifists in Germany represent as diverse points of view as we do in Britain.

NEW HEADQUARTERS

Most of the time on Monday was given over to matters of more local interest, and a discussion on the future organisation of the German section. It was formally decided to approve of the linking together of the smaller sections into one centralised German WRI, with its headquarters at Hamburg. Dr. Michaltsheff was elected secretary, and it was agreed that there should be a meeting of representatives of the different groups at a later date, for the appointment of other officers.

Provisional plans were made for the encouragement of student groups, and of a student camp in August, as well as for the publication of WRI literature in Germany.

EAGER QUESTIONERS

After the formal conference had ended, a group of WRI members gathered at Dr. Michaltsheff's house for a discussion with us on Monday evening. It developed almost into a brains trust, Runham, Grace and I were bombarded with questions which showed how eager those present were to bring out, and try and find some solution to, problems associated with pacifism, about which they are concerned.

We discussed subjects like the International Police Force, the use of the strike weapon, possible methods of non-violent action, the right attitude to conscription, and the possibility of the formation of a world government in the near future.

I left Hamburg, for Hanover and Berlin, with a deep sense of the warmth of the welcome we received, of their courage in the face of all their difficulties, and of the vitality of the German pacifist movement. Indeed, I found myself asking whether the conference did not show a greater sense of purpose and vitality than our own AGM, and whether we could get even in London, as good a meeting as those which I was able to share, both in Hamburg and subsequently in Berlin.

Marshall—critic of dollar diplomacy

WRITING in this commentary towards the end of May I made a prediction that America would come forward with a plan for Europe; that a suggestion would be made for organising the beggars of Europe. Within a fortnight Mr. George Marshall, the United States Secretary of State, made one of the most inspiring statements that have been made since the end of the late war and told Europe to get on with the business of putting its house in order. Mr. Bevin immediately took the initiative, called on M. Bidault, and together they induced M. Molotov to come to Paris and join in the talks.

For a whole week the international skies have been practically clear. There were a few stray clouds from

COMMENTARY

by

LLEWELLYN CHANTER

the east while the Russians were making up their minds whether or not to attend. One or two of the principal Polish newspapers denounced the whole scheme, but instantly let the matter drop as soon as they heard that M. Molotov had bought his ticket for Paris.

At the time of writing it is impossible to predict what will happen in Paris. On this occasion one cannot have the same amount of self-assurance in looking into the future because the quality of eastern politics is different from that of the west. The most useful thing that can be done is to analyse the situation that presents itself at this most important point in European history and to

weigh up the chances of a successful outcome of the present negotiations.

No cheque yet

IN the first place it has to be distinctly understood, in face of all loose talk to the contrary, that the United States has made no offer of any kind to Europe. To judge from some of the commentaries appearing in the press one would imagine that Uncle Sam was sitting by his cheque book, pen poised, waiting to fill in the amount of Europe's overdraft. That is altogether a wrong conception of Mr. Marshall's plan. In point of fact Mr. Marshall told Europe to organise itself, and only after that would the United States scrutinise the balance sheet to see how far American wealth could be used to aid the programme which Europe had worked out for itself. That is another matter altogether.

Paris—an innovation

BY the time this commentary appears in print a good deal (CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

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THE MORAL

WE are privileged this week to present a survey of the militarist ascendancy in America, by Mr. Oswald Garrison Villard. The justification given for the manoeuvres he describes is that "Communists understand no argument except force." It is a highly dubious justification. For one thing, if it were always an advantage to encounter an enemy with a weapon of which he himself has such specialised knowledge, the Americans would be falling over themselves with eagerness to impart the atomic know-how to Russia. If Communists understand no argument except force, it would be wiser to meet them with an argument they do not understand.

The position, however, provokes more serious reflections than that. There is hardly a problem of the Far East, or the Near West that does not depend for its solution upon some stable *modus vivendi* between USA and USSR. We are therefore fortunate in being able to present, alongside Mr. Villard's survey, an eyewitness impression of Yugoslavia. For Yugoslavia is probably more naturally tied to Russia than any other East European country. It is not only Communist-controlled, but, as Mr. Tempest makes clear, Communist-inspired.

The reason is not far to seek. Modern Yugoslavia is the creation of the Resistance-movement: and, precisely because the pre-war State of that name was an artificial, composite structure, devoid of solidarity between either classes or nationalities, this Resistance was more instinctively revolutionary than nationalistic. The ideology of Communism fitted it like a glove.

Furthermore, because that same mountainous terrain which had hindered national consolidation perfectly favoured guerilla-warfare, the movement was more powerful and prolonged here than anywhere else in Europe: immobilising, at its height, no less than twenty-five German divisions, and delaying the invasion of Russia by several critical weeks. Basil Davidson's "Partisan Picture" (Bedford Books, 18s.) gives a vivid idea of the utter ruthlessness with which the campaigns were fought, neither side expecting or receiving quarter. From the victors of such a war one might look for courage and selfless idealism, but certainly not pity or respect for the person. The ethics of Communism were as appropriate as its ideology.

Both the heroisms and the horrors of the Tito regime are easily understandable. The religious and political persecutions verified by the British League for European Freedom are the obverse of the scenes depicted by Mr. Tempest. Happy the man who can believe that the horrors are only transitory, the heroisms a permanent possession! It is all too likely to be the other way about.

What emerges so clearly from this history, however, is that war, by promoting ruthlessness, promotes Communism; and, by the same token, can only degrade democracy. The contrast between the dynamic of victorious Yugoslavia and the exhaustion of victorious Britain—underlined by the departure of some twenty youthful idealists from this country a fortnight ago, to help on the Samac-Sarajevo Railway—points the moral as nothing else could. Democracy can be neither inspired nor defended except by respect for the person; therefore the heroism of the guerilla can be neither matched nor overcome except by the heroism of the Christian, expressed in a readiness to die, but refusal to kill, for a belief.

THE AMERICAN DRIFT TO MILITARISM

I. THE PRESS IS SILENT

ONE does not have to be a follower of Henry Wallace—I am not—to welcome his labours to prevent war between the United States and Russia and to assail the militarisation of this country by President Truman.

Very few Americans have any conception of the speed at which that is progressing, or that there is legislation pending in Congress which, as Senator McCarthy of Wisconsin has publicly stated, "can and will in the next twenty years give to the military complete and absolute dictatorial control over civilian life."

Himself a naval veteran of the last war, Senator McCarthy also said that if the present Bill, which on its face is merely intended to merge the army and navy, is passed, Americans "will live to regret it more than any other piece of legislation of the last century." He added: "I strongly urge the citizens of this country to oppose it with every means at their command."

USURPING PREROGATIVES

Senator Aiken of Vermont declares that this measure, if voted, will be "the most far-reaching step in the reorganisation of our government during the past 150 years," and Senator Robertson of Wyoming protests that the army continually seeks "to take unto itself many of the prerogatives of the Executive and Legislative branches of our Government." All of this is concealed behind a measure which appears to be a wise, up-to-date and economical move to bring both the fighting services under one head and thus insure the co-operation so lacking when Pearl Harbour was attacked, and to save billions of dollars.

The press, including such formerly liberal and anti-militaristic dailies as the St. Louis Post-Dispatch and the large Scripps-Howard group, is silent or approves the measure. Indeed, the alarming feature of the situation is that the press is overwhelmingly maintaining its war-time attitude of letting the army and navy have their way. I am happy to record that there are not lacking military and naval voices in opposition, but they dare not in most cases protest publicly lest

their careers be practically ended by the dominant General Staff clique in the War Department.

However, Brig-General Merritt A. Edson, who fought with great gallantry at Guadalcanal, declares that he will retire from the service on July 1 because of the unwarranted "assumption of power" by the military. "When," he says, "we have reached the point where the military are directing instead of supporting this country's policy we are far along the road to losing what this country has stood for."

NO QUESTIONS

Addressing the alumni of the University of Vermont, he commented on the fact that it has come to pass where a general has told a Senate Committee that Congress "should not question too closely" legislation proposed by the military, and added that the military feel that they can "never properly organise the country until an over-all top command controls everything." Since General Edson holds the Medal of Honour for gallantry, which corresponds to the British Victoria Cross, it is impossible to talk him down as one who is not really familiar with military life or to cast aspersions upon his military record.

Several other officers have testified before the Congressional committees dealing with this dangerous Bill, but their testimony has not appeared in the New York press, nor did a word of Gen. Edson's speech.

Individual editors, Senators and Representatives admit the dangerous character of this legislation, but maintain that the alternative is conquest by Russia and that we must prepare

OSWALD GARRISON VILLARD

B.A., M.A., Litt. D., LL.D.

was educated at Harvard University. He was at one time Proprietor and Editor of the New York Evening Post and also the New York Nation.

In a series of three articles he hopes to expose "an incredibly alarming situation, the worst feature of which is that the public is entirely unaware of what is happening, and the press connives, without realising that this puts us straight on the road to Fascism."

to resist that subjugation at any price.

Nonetheless, wherever one talks with plain people who are not influenced by a certain church, there is marked opposition both to the prospect of another war and the militarisation of the country. Otherwise Congress must have voted universal military training before this, for the most powerful popular weeklies and the most influential dailies favour it, and the War and Navy Departments are deep in propaganda of every kind to an extent unparalleled in our history. They are not only utilising the press, paying especial attention to editors and taking them to see the model conscription unit they have set up at Fort Knox composed of specially picked volunteers and a large number of carefully selected officers and non-coms., but they are setting up local committees in cities, using attractive women as speakers, and, most important, utilising the broadcasting services and staging debates with carefully picked contestants.

All of this raises the question how a democracy can control its government when the latter seeks to achieve its own aims and has control of most of the means of communication. (To be continued).

Channel Island Nazis

WHAT exactly does Dr. Wood want to prove by his account of the German occupation of the Channel Islands? I don't suppose it to be that by giving in to Nazi-demands one could assure for oneself and friends a tolerable sort of life, even under occupation!

Organised resistance on a large scale in Holland only began as a reaction against Nazi terrorism. In Holland there was some purely patriotic resistance right from the beginning, but this certainly did not provoke German brutalities: they did everything at first to promote friendship. But by the nature of their ideology, they could not tolerate different opinions.

Resistance began in Aug., 1940, when people refused to render their copper and tin for munitions, when the workers left Nazi-dominated trade unions, when the farmers withheld their horses, when hundreds of Jehovah's Witnesses, Freemasons, Salvation Army members, teachers of denominational schools, socialists, and later communists, and so on tried to evade arrest and had to be sheltered, provided with ration cards and identification papers. Sabotage began when civil servants applied "go slow" tactics to the introduction of identification papers, to the Nazification of school-programmes, etc.

Workers refused to work on air-fields or pill-boxes or to be deported for "fine work with good pay" in the German war-industry: the Amsterdam shipbuilders struck against those "offers" a few days before the general strike of Feb., 1941, which was a protest against the treatment of the Jews.

All these activities at first were unorganised: they expanded and then had to be organised, so followed inevitable provisions for obtaining

LETTERS

ration cards for the victims of persecution. Armed intervention in all this kind of work was of little importance, only at the end of 1944 organised armed resistance became more general, aided by droppings, radio-communications, etc. It is certainly not true that German terrorism was provoked by the resistance, though in some cases one may attribute one or the other particular brutal act—such as the burning of the village of Putten in 1944—to a specific act of armed resistance, i.e., the attempt on the police-chief Rauther.

To explain the mild character of the German occupation of the Channel Islands I suppose one will have to look to the absence of men of military age and—I regret to say—probably too to a lack of opposition against Nazi methods, e.g., the victimisation of the Jews. But unless our pacifism should lead to a form of non-resistance characterised by yielding to any demand of our opponents, I doubt whether Dr. Wood's *prima facie* case would hold much water in the case of a repeated totalitarian occupation. In fact, merely to be a pacifist would constitute an act of resistance, and would provoke repression, the more so, the more one tries to live up to the demands of our ideal.

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Heematede (Holland),
Orchideenlaan 23.

International language

FEW will deny the need for an international language to foster and deepen human understanding across national barriers, to help man realise peace in the only way possible

—through world-unity and world-fellowship.

F. A. Lea raises a pertinent objection to the claims of Basic English as a world-language—could the British and Americans ever learn it? As a mental exercise, Basic may be ingenious, but as an interlingua it is impracticable, with a vocabulary totally inadequate for modern needs.

The solution is a neutral planned language having an adequate vocabulary, and based on simplicity and logic. The auxiliary language IDO fulfils these conditions, and has proved its worth and efficiency. I should be pleased to supply any interested readers with further information.

TOM LANG.

10 Eaglescliffe Drive,
Newcastle-on-Tyne, 7.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE SIX)

BACKS TO THE WALL STILL

DURING the last few weeks, there has been a slight, but welcome, turn for the better in our circulation: thanks to the generous support of those who have responded to our appeals to get PN back on the streets, bookstalls and library-shelves; to take out extra subscriptions; and contribute to the PN Fund. But those who deserve our thanks deserve our reinforcement also. Our position is still precarious, and will go on being so unless the breach is filled between our present circulation and the minimum necessary to save the only pacifist newspaper in this country. Do please help them, us and the cause of pacifism itself in one or all of these ways.

THE EDITOR.

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Voluntary work in Yugoslavia

ENTHUSIASM BUILDS A RAILWAY

THE outstanding impression of the visitor to Yugoslavia is one of reconstruction. And in this reconstruction, the part played by voluntary effort is frankly astonishing. Even the most sceptical visitor is impressed. There must be very few young people among the many races which compose the Yugoslav Federation who are not giving several hours a week of voluntary manual labour.

There is considerable propaganda behind it. The first night we arrived in Zagreb we found an enormous crowd of six or seven thousand people in the main square. They were watching a series of films projected on a huge screen high up in the square, with numerous loud speakers. All the films dealt with schemes of reconstruction. The show went on for an hour.

When we left the square, buses and lorries were arriving in one of the side streets with hundreds of voluntary workers who had finished their three hours' work on a new road which is being made entirely by voluntary labour, from Zagreb to Belgrade. This new road was the subject of one of the films we had just seen, and the next evening we went out to see the work.

Symbol of reconciliation

The road connects Zagreb, the capital of Croatia, with Belgrade, the capital of Serbia. It is called the "Road of Unity and Fraternity," and symbolises the reconciliation after age-long feuds between Croats and Serbs. It will be 250 miles long, and villages and towns on the route are co-operating. Every night at the Zagreb end of the road, you find at least 6,000 volunteers, with picks, shovels and barrows, working in long lines as far as the eye can see. Throughout the summer an average of thirty to thirty-five thousand people per week will be working on this road. Kiddies bring their bar-

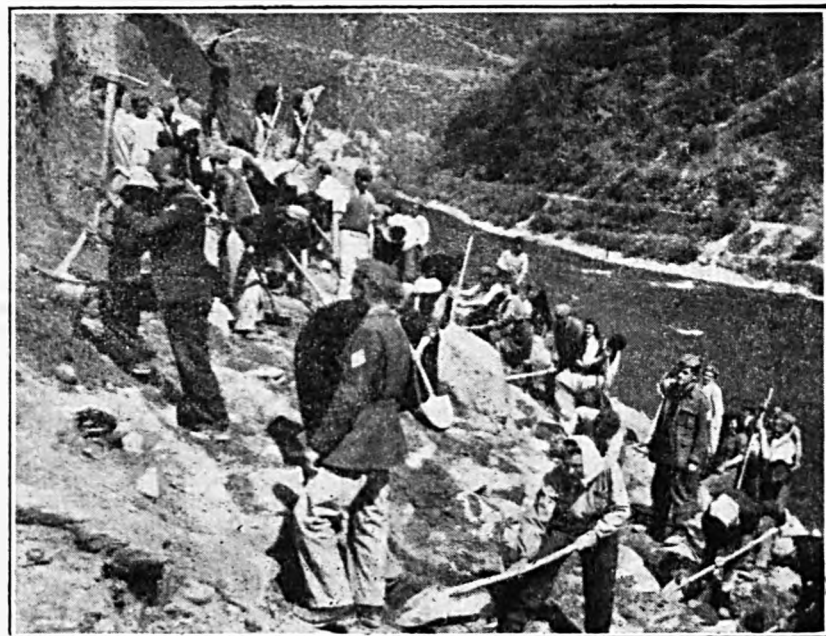
by
E. V. TEMPEST

rows, and there is a picnic atmosphere in some sections, and amateur orchestras and soloists of every variety enliven the work. But the background is serious, and the organisation seems efficient under permanent skilled direction. The population of Zagreb is about 250,000, and this road is only the largest of many other voluntary schemes in the district. Marching groups of from 40 to 100 volunteers, carrying spades, and singing as they march, are common sights throughout Yugoslavia.

The birthday

We were in Zagreb on Marshal Tito's birthday. The only open air celebration was a huge procession of voluntary workers and youth organisations in the City square. Each contingent had its own band, and the confused noise was deafening. It was a spontaneous but orderly demonstration, and the onlookers were not mere spectators, but joined in the more popular tunes. A thin line of police, every twelve or fifteen yards, kept back the crowds, though there was a good deal of joining and re-joining in and out of the procession. There were no troops. Anything more unlike the drilled efficiency of a Fascist procession in Mussolini's day it would be impossible to imagine.

Every town has some voluntary scheme. In Split, hundreds of workers were levelling war-time trenches and earth works, and clearing debris



BUILDING THE YOUTH RAILWAY

A group working on the track near Vranduk.

on the sea front. In other towns they are preparing sites for new buildings. But the biggest and most dramatic scheme is the building of the so-called "Youth Railway" from the main Zagreb-Belgrade line for 170 miles into the heart of Bosnia. I spent several days along this line, and it is impossible to exaggerate its significance.

The volunteers

The work began in April and will be finished by Nov. 29, probably earlier. An average of 57,000 volunteers are working on it every day. When I was there, the workers numbered over sixty thousand, and 2,000 of them were volunteers from Australia, Albania, Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Palestine and Sweden. Before it is finished, 200,000 volunteers will have given one to two months' work each—some longer—on this railway. They are housed in huts and tents along the 170 miles, given overalls, well fed, but receive no payment. The work is hard and the heat formidable. But the line runs among the mountains of Central Bosnia, the climate is healthy, the scenery magnificent, and the organisation efficient—thanks to the experience gained last year in the construction of the sixty mile long railway from Banovichi to Brcko, also by volunteer youth labour. There is also a tremendous amount of fun and high spirits of the healthy, spontaneous kind, with none of the artificial excitements of the city streets.

Tunnelling

Where special skill is needed (for tunnelling and bridges) there is a larger proportion of skilled engineers, one to six or ten voluntary workers. For instance, the Vranduk tunnel is nearly a mile long, one of three long tunnels in construction. When I went to the rock face, the tunnel was within a hundred yards of being pierced. Experts said this would not be done before July 28, but it is now likely to be finished one month before schedule. The work here goes on day and night in shifts, partly owing to the shortage of pneumatic drills. There are about 250 volunteers at each end of the tunnel with about sixty experienced tunnellers.

Many of the tunnellers learned their job on the Banovichi Youth Railway. Their work is exhausting and even dangerous, but up to the present there have been no serious accidents.

The chief engineer of the Shamatz end of the tunnel (a young man of 28) told me that the quality and speed of these volunteer enthusiasts continually amazed him. "Thousands of these youngsters will quit this job with a justified self-confidence in their use of tools and knowledge of con-

struction," he said. "It's a good sign for the future."

Women workers seem to predominate where construction is less complicated, shifting thousands of tons of soil, working in the gardens which supply fresh vegetables for the meals, and in the canteens.

Escape from the veil

Thousands of Moslem women are working on the railway. One third of the population of Bosnia is Mohammedan. The railway has given the women a welcome opportunity to escape from the Moslem ban on women's work. This in itself is a major revolution. The veil is being discarded. The slogan of the Youth railway is dramatically true of these Moslem women, "We build the railway, but the railway builds us." I stayed overnight at Zenice (the largest town on the railway) with a Moslem family, and my hostess told me, "I'm too old to work, but I give this room for the use of the railway."

The working day is six hours. There is also one hour of compulsory education for the Yugoslav volunteers. You see groups of young folk everywhere learning to read and write. A conservative estimate is given of 20,000 illiterates who will have learned to read and write when the railway is finished. Most of the education is more advanced. Graduates from every University in Yugoslavia are giving lessons in their subjects. Every important theatrical company and orchestra in Yugoslavia is giving performances along the railroad and it has literally become a school of liberal education.

Periods of service

Work on the line is divided into eleven sections with a special technical staff. In addition there is the Youth Control for each section, responsible for food supplies, billets, reliefs, and education. Two months is the usual period for volunteer service but thousands come for shorter periods of two to four weeks. Approximately half the workers are changed every month, and in this way there is always a fifty per cent. proportion of workers with some experience to guide the newcomers. In July and August students from schools and universities replace the peasants who are needed for the harvest. From the towns there are more volunteers than can be accepted, as workers from many factories cannot be spared.

The visitor from abroad who has seen this army of volunteers at work realises more clearly the significance of a popular cartoon in the Yugoslav papers. An American offers bags of dollars to a Yugoslav, who refuses them. "Why don't you take my dollars?" "Thanks," replies the Yugoslav, "But look, we have millions already!" pointing to a long line of workers.



AFTER THE DAY'S WORK

A class of illiterates of the Cazin brigade, in which there are 160 illiterates, a quarter of whom have already learnt to read and write.

Ten Years Ago

From Peace News, July 3, 1937

Nearly a quarter of a million people at Hendon on Saturday saw the most spectacular show of Britain's aerial might yet arranged... A hundred thousand leaflets were distributed, some of them showing graphically that although Hendon was but a rehearsal of the modern air terror, two short months ago Guernica had been a demonstration of it really at work.

The crowds watching the RAF Display... doubtless went away hoping that when the

£1,500,000,000 was duly spent, England would have brought enough power to be "safe." And any day, just across the sea, thousands of Germans and Italians and Russians are watching similar sights and hoping for the same thing.

—Max Plowman.

"Everyone wants peace" is a frequent assertion. That may be true—but "everyone" doesn't want the same kind of peace...

—Reginald Sorensen, MP.

ATOMIC BOMBS AND THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

ARISING directly out of the call made by His Majesty the King that next Sunday, July 6, should be held as a national day of prayer, a public meeting took place last week in the West End of London at Weigh House Church. The speakers were Raymond Blackburn, M.P., who also acted as chairman, Rev. A. D. Belden and Rev. Claud Colman.

The object of the meeting was explained by Mr. Colman. It was an attempt to follow the instructions of the Archbishop of Canterbury to prepare for this national day of prayer

for the peace and prosperity of this Kingdom on the national day of prayer," said Dr. Belden. "What can we do," he asked, and replied to his own question—refuse to be hypocrites on July 6; as a nation, follow the example of France, who, as reported by Ritchie Calder in the News-Chronicle, June 25, "has repudiated the bomb, and will be no party to it," but is concentrating all her energies upon the development of atomic power; make a mass appeal to the people of Russia—the iron curtain has a lot of holes in it, and behind it are people willing to listen to such an appeal. If the British people are to do these things, the Church should be in the lead.

No British bombs

The Chairman, as a responsible member of Parliament, assured the listeners that no atomic bombs were being made in this country. The development of atomic energy had been started, but so far as could be foreseen, it would be several years before even a thought could be given to the manufacture of bombs. Almost all experts on the subject are also agreed that Russia is very unlikely to develop atomic bombs before 1951 at the earliest. The need for a decision on this matter, however, was vital, but he considered this to be much more difficult than it had been presented by the other speakers. All three were certainly in agreement that the two overwhelming dangers facing us at

the present time were, firstly, the development of weapons of mass destruction, and secondly, the spirit of totalitarianism that was gradually creeping over the world, both the product of an industrial civilisation.

Mr. Blackburn's plea

Mr. Blackburn admitted that two years ago he took the same position as the other two speakers, but could not do so now. The only hope he could see was in the successful political control of atomic energy. Yet he had to make the further plea for a new spiritual approach to these problems, for a dynamic that is as great as the dynamic of totalitarianism, for a recapture of the essential spirit of Christianity.

This is not the first recent instance in which Mr. Blackburn's challenge has been made to pacifists. "Do not waste your time creating pacifists," he appeared to be urging; "rather concentrate upon creating the kind of world in which conscientious objectors will be unnecessary, in which there will be no bombs to renounce." But according to his previous statements, it was evident that we have only about five years' grace in which to bring such a world into existence.

Perhaps a breach might be made in this subtle difference if the corporate body of the Church were honestly to examine the national life in the light of the ten commandments and the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth.

Matilde Rathenau's letter

TWENTY-FIVE years ago, in June, 1922, the German Minister for Foreign Affairs, Walter Rathenau, was murdered. A shudder of disgust went through the world. After a long search two of the three killers were encircled in a German castle. When the police penetrated the building, both—Kern and Fischer—had taken their own lives. The third murderer was Teschow. His family handed him over to the authorities.

It was at that moment the old Mrs. Rathenau, mother of the murdered man, wrote a letter that will be preserved in the history of mankind as a shining light in the night of human egoism and hatred in which the present generation flounders. The mother of Rathenau sent her letter to the mother of Teschow, the man who had murdered her son, and in the inexpressible grief over the loss of her great son she wrote:

"I FORGIVE"

"Full of unspeakable pity I extend my hand to you, the most unhappy of all mothers. Tell your son that I forgive him, as may God forgive him. Let him confess freely before his earthly judge and repent before his Heavenly Judge. If he had really known my son, that most noble of all men, he would have directed his weapon more readily at himself than at him."

Teschow was convicted. After five years he was released because of his good behaviour in prison. From that moment no more was heard of him. Years passed. The man, whose name had once appeared on the front page of the world's newspapers, was forgotten completely. . . . until a day came, when in Africa something happened that no writer would have dared to imagine.

A certain Tessier, Adjutant in a company of the Foreign Legion, was serving there. A newly arrived soldier presented himself. He was taken before the Adjutant. In taking his orders he announced himself as 'Legionary soldier Rathenau.'

Adjutant Tessier blanched, rose and said, "Are you a member of the family of the former German minister who was murdered?" Yes, Ad-

Translated from German to Esperanto by B. Cosijnse; from Esperanto to English by J. W. Leslie. (From Heroldo de Esperanto, June 1, 1947).

jutant," replied the newcomer, "I am his nephew."

Then standing up to his full height, the stern, bronzed Adjutant Tessier, while the others present listened in dead silence announced, "It is necessary for me to inform you, Rathenau, that before you stands one of the murderers of your uncle."

And in an excited voice he continued, "I am one of the three men who shot your uncle dead on June 24, 1922, in the Royal Avenue in Berlin. My real name is Ernst Werner Teschow."

CHERISHED POSSESSION

He spoke in German, apparently in order to make his confession more credible, went to his writing desk and from his letter rack took out an old, yellowed letter, the letter once written by Matilde Rathenau to his mother. "This letter is my most cherished possession," he said slowly.

Teschow had suffered punishment for his crime; but he still regarded himself responsible for that criminal act. He related to the nephew how everything within him had changed.

"In the prison I read and studied the books of Rathenau," he said. "I tried to rule myself, as that wonderful mother of Rathenau had governed her feelings while she wrote that letter to my poor mother. Step by step my thoughts changed. Rathenau's books taught me to see things in a totally different light. Gradually that letter became the most valued object that I possessed on this earth. The letter converted me and saved my life."

That was in 1940. In 1941 and later years Teschow worked in Marseilles in misery and danger of death. From the claws of the Gestapo he saved no less than seven hundred persons. He helped them to escape from France to Africa. How? Nobody knows. Investigations however, have revealed that the number was apparently even greater.

Teschow disappeared. So far, no one has heard of him again. Perhaps he is somewhere in Africa; maybe he himself finally became a victim of the Gestapo, against which he fought.

His name survives in honour. The letter of Mrs. Rathenau has borne fruit.

WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT

WHILST it is not intended that this column should deteriorate into a fashion sketchbook, we cannot ignore the dicta of Mr. James Laver. His sartorial perceptions go more than cloth-deep.

He has made some shrewd observations in the Evening Standard on the New Woman—now approaching her fiftieth birthday. "We have women in Parliament and women at the Bar. We have women in the factories and women in the Services. Superficially, at least, it looks like an advance all along the line." But Mr. Laver is not impressed. What does this emancipation amount to? "Mistress of a latch-key and a gas-ring," the modern woman has "the privilege of earning her own living and, even, crowning triumph, of being conscripted in her country's service." Crowned triumph, indeed! And the future is equally grim. "We are only just beginning to understand that the 'home' is incompatible with female emancipation." In fact, concludes Mr. Laver sadly, "female emancipation, as understood by its pioneers, is an illusion."

This is hardly fair to the pioneers. It would be truer to say that they did their job too well, and over-shot the mark: they assumed that society was ready for them, that men in fact were emancipated already. This optimism was of course unjustified, and consequently emancipation became largely an exchange of bondage. As long as the ethics of power and aggression prevail, the road to freedom for men and women alike will end in the cul-de-sac of conscription.

There is little more women can do, politically and economically, without the emergence of a New Man. The mistake we have made is in applying new methods to old standards. Just as the Power behind the Throne was corrupt, so the Golden Voice at the controls is usually a metallic counterfeit—because the coinage of society is still false. The years of bondage (and the man-power shortage) have bred an inferiority complex which has robbed women of their faith in their own merits. We would suggest that its re-establishment is a necessary prerequisite of a Men's Emancipation Campaign.

A needed organisation

MEANWHILE, we make-do and try to mend. It is good to know that members of the British Labour Party, at the instigation of Mrs. Arthur Greenwood, are meeting to form an organisation to aid Polish children. Money and goods will be sent to Poland to be distributed by the Workers' Association for Children's Relief, which is already caring for about 40,000 war-orphans.

Equal pay

The Government has accepted the principle of equal pay, but regrets that this is not at present practicable owing to the expense involved—an additional £24 million a year. There are of course other more pressing bills, notably the trifle of £388 millions for the Army.

This does not come as a surprise. It has long been obvious to us that it is woman's privilege to pay. But it is a little hard to have to buy a seat at the circus of Death.

EIRENE.

HOW STRONG?

"**S**OMETIME after 1952 the U.S. hopes to have the ultimate in destructiveness: a super-sonic missile which can be guided under full control to a target 3,000 to 5,000 miles away. . . ."

"By 1948 strategists guess, Russia will have guided missiles, armed with a one-ton warhead with a range of 3,000 miles. By 1952 disease-tipped bacterial weapons may be practical. Any time after 1952, by their estimates, Russia is likely to have the Bomb. . . . 1957 will be the year of crisis, the year when Russia will first have a military edge. The question for the U.S. to ask itself is: how strong must the U.S. be in 1957?"

—Time, June 23, 1947.

by examining our national life according to the standards of the ten commandments, and the teachings of Jesus Christ. To do this he felt must lead to a repudiation of any national participation in the production of atomic bombs. He would like to see the clergy and ministers throughout the country take the opportunity of next Sunday to call upon the people for an abandonment of this line of activity.

The spiritual principle relevant to our whole position today is that we never do find the right alternative until we give up the wrong one. This is the kind of leadership the Church ought to give. Instead, it is not too much to say that it is failing mankind in the hour of perhaps its greatest extremity.

"To go on manufacturing atomic bombs is to make an absolute mockery of the prayers that will be offered

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A. J. MUSTE, distinguished U.S. pacifist is interviewed in London

ONE of the most virile and informative pacifist periodicals to reach me regularly is "Fellowship," the monthly journal of the American For; and one of the most thoughtful and searching of its contributors is the Rev. A. J. Muste.

Prior to the first world war, Mr. Muste was a pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church in America. He left it on account of a theological difference and became a Congregationalist, only to be deprived of his parish owing to the pacifist conviction he reached early on in the war.

He was one of the first members of the For in the States, and still belongs to the Society of Friends, although during the between-war period he was an active Trotskyist. It was not until 1937 that he returned to full-time work for the Presbyterian Church and the pacifist movement, of which he is one of the outstanding figures.

Challenging writer

His writings (readers will remember three articles which appeared in PN last February) always reflect his wide experience, learning and an urgent sense of the fundamental challenge of pacifism. He has never confused personal conviction with political expediency, pacifism with appeasement, the renunciation of armed force with the withdrawal of armed forces. It was, therefore, with real eagerness that I looked forward to meeting him in London last week, and discussing some of the issues that face both English and American pacifists.

My first enquiries, naturally, related to the activities of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and War Resisters' League in America. Though the numerical strength of these organisations (both of which are affiliated to the WRI) is smaller than that of their English counterparts, their influence, Mr. Muste believes, has been considerably greater. Asked the reason, he attributed this partly to the greater remoteness of America from the actualities of war, but more to the excellent relations between their members, and the close co-ordination of their work.

He spoke encouragingly of the inter-racial group which has been touring the Southern States to test their respect for the Supreme Court decision of June 1946, ruling out racial segregation among inter-state travellers (cf. PN May 23). The experiment, he said, had received wide publicity—no editor presuming

to discredit it openly—and there was good reason to hope that it might start a movement for breaking down the barriers between black and white, which would eventually affect the Deep South itself. Incidentally, he observed with a smile, it had annoyed the Communists.

At a meeting in London a few days before, Mr. Muste had stated that the official recommendations on military service in America were unlikely to be adopted this year; and next year being an election season, might be scouted as too controversial. Gallup polls had showed only a small percentage of people resolutely opposed to peace-time conscription, and inducements to military service in the way of extra education, already operating in the Navy, were likely to be extended to the Army; but there was increasing doubt among military staffs as to the efficacy of large armies in the atomic age, and not a single important organisation had expressed itself in favour of UMT.

Alternative service

He thought that the delay in introducing conscription could certainly be attributed largely to the early initiative and systematic campaign of the American war resisters.

These remarks recalled to my mind the division of opinion within the PPU, between those who would encourage the opponents of conscription to refuse compliance with all the provisions of the National Service Act, and thereby perhaps render it inoperative; and those who accept the principle of alternative service, pending the day when a substantial proportion of the population is prepared to renounce war with all its concomitants.

Mr. Muste thought it right that COs should be encouraged to refuse alternative service, though on moral rather than tactical grounds. He maintained that alternative service is likely to seem to COs themselves a privilege which they may come to regret. He also advanced the original argument that, since there are some whose consciences cannot be satisfied with such service, it would

be a praiseworthy gesture on the part of others to refuse conditional exemption until their brothers had been granted what they required. At the same time, Mr. Muste regretted that pacifists who objected to counselling absolutism should be estranged by such a policy being advanced in the name of an organisation to which they belonged. "We must get away from the principle of majority decisions," he said.

I asked him whether he thought a convincing case could be made out for unilateral disarmament by this country, purely on grounds of expediency. He was sceptical. "I doubt very much whether America would be interested in a neutral, disarmed Britain. She would probably abandon it to the Russians, who would certainly like to see their cordon of 'friendly countries' extended to the Atlantic coast. There are already voices in the States advocating such a course, and concentration of American defence on the New World and the Far East. So the common-sense case for disarmament is no different over here from what it is at home, and it's not enough.

No alternative?

"No, there seems no alternative to collective security with eventual war, except the adoption of pacifism: that is, readiness to risk everything for peace—and this, as you know, can never be justified on grounds of expediency, but must spring from a real conviction of the sinfulness of waging war.

"If expediency is the only criterion, there's as much to be said for the preventive war, which some people at home actually recommend. And the anti-Communist hysteria in the States now is such that I think the public might just be got to swallow that, given a suitable pretext."

"Nevertheless," I persisted, "there are some people over here who do think unilateral disarmament a realistic policy, even though they are not pacifists: who contend that foreign occupation would be a lesser evil than war, even though war itself



REV. A. J. MUSTE.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

A Crisis of Culture, by John MacMurray. National Peace Council, 4d.

THIS is one of the best Peace Aims Pamphlets yet issued. Prof. MacMurray treats of relationships between Russia and the West with a real imaginative understanding. His historical approach to the outstanding problem of this century makes him at once tolerant and proof against facile solutions. "Anyone who knows how to achieve friendship and co-operation with Russia," he warns us, "is a dangerous quack." He himself accordingly does no more than show the nature of the problem, and how it has come to be posed: but that is perhaps as much as anyone can do at present to pave the way for eventual rapprochement, and he has done it so well that his essay is worth buying to keep.

Facts About Atomic Energy, by Kathleen Lonsdale. PN, 2d.

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would be a lesser evil than unsuccessful war. . ."

Mr. Muste seemed interested, and took down the names of one or two such non-pacifist advocates of unilateral disarmament. "If such a thing did prove possible," he observed, "it would have a tremendous effect on the States."

Mr. Muste is leaving England this week for France, Oslo and perhaps Germany. But he is returning to attend the For Summer Conference at Blandford from August 16 to 22. He will have much of interest to report, concerning both the Continent and the United States.

F. A. LEA.

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Forcing a choice on Europe

COMMENTARY CONTINUED

more will be known about the Paris conference and its chances of success. But for those who are interested in the attitude of mind which Mr. Bevin, at least, took to the conference and, as the Americans say, for the sake of the record, it should be noted that he, as part author of what has become known as the Marshall plan, was determined that no preconceived ideas should stand in the way of agreement with M. Molotov. Never before in recent international history have delegates gone to such a conference without a vast amount of preliminary exploration. That was one of the refreshing things about this conference. What is more, neither in invitation nor acceptance have any details of the ground which the discussions will cover been revealed. This conference started without any prejudices on any side.

Bevin's difficult task

WHATEVER comes out of the Paris meeting, whatever the Russian attitude may turn out to be, it can be taken for granted that the western nations at least will pursue the objectives set them. At this moment everyone hopes and prays that the plan will not become bogged down through ideological disputations or through procedural finesse. But there is a determination to cut through all that at almost any cost. How far the major powers at the beginning, and the smaller powers at a later stage, will be able to avoid these pitfalls must remain conjectural at present. The Netherlands Government, for example, have prepared a memorandum on European reconstruction—an admirable document in itself. It raises, however, and perhaps quite justifiably, the old controversial issues of the industrial output of Germany, reparations, and the interpretation of the Potsdam agreement upon which the Moscow conference foundered. How Mr. Bevin, as the convener of the conference, will be able to avoid these obstacles and keep to his "down to earth" policy it is difficult to see.

Smoothing the rough edge

THE Marshall plan will require a high degree of imagination to commend it to Congress which will ultimately have to sanction it. Mr. Bevin has to hand over a scheme which will induce Congress to vote the necessary money, goods and credit and, at the same time, induce it so to modify the economy of the United States as to fit in with the scheme. And this Congress will only do, not as an act of generosity but as a contribution to its own well-being as well as to that of Europe. That is an aspect of the plan which is causing, and will cause, a good deal of thought.

The question is being more and more insistently asked whether the Marshall plan is an outgrowth of the Truman doctrine which aimed at giving aid to European countries in their fight against Communism. Many of our leading statesmen today believe that President Truman conceived his idea in panic and put it into opera-

tion in far too great a haste. Its success depended entirely upon the anti-communist feeling which swept America like a great wave. If, by any hint or act, the Marshall plan becomes identified with the Truman doctrine, then it will be doomed to failure. The State Department in Washington would like it to be realised that it was rushed into acceptance of the Presidential measure for which it was ill-prepared and that Mr. Marshall's policy will take the rough edge off an unfortunate piece of legislation.

The Vatican speaks out

AT the moment that Mr. Bevin and M. Bidault were meeting in Paris the Vatican newspaper "L'Osservatore Romano" took both Moscow and Washington to task for the state of war between them which they were allowing to develop. Disassociating one's mind from any prejudices concerning the part played by the Pope in international politics, it can be seen that he voiced a concern which is taking hold of a good many people in Europe. It can also be said with a good deal of certainty that it is on the mind of Mr. Marshall. The exacerbation of the Washington-Moscow dispute by ill-timed acts is thrusting the nations of Europe into an increasingly grave predicament. The dispute has no dignity and its aggravation will have decreasing efficacy. The peoples of Europe will be inexorably driven into a position in which they will have to make a choice between east and west—a choice which they cordially detest.

It has at last reached the understanding of many American politicians, many of whom still suffer from the effects of too much seawater between themselves and Europe, that Europe does not consist of blacks and whites only; that a good many people living behind the iron curtain have as much affection for the west as for the east; that a good many Poles, Czechs, Rumanians and so on have no wish to give a hand to Russian expansion. But they do not want, at the same time, to live on the beneficence of America.

A critic of dollar diplomacy

THE one, great, overriding fact is that America is not represented at the present meeting of the great powers. American opinion and American influence is staying at home and is not coming into collision with the east. Europe will now look to itself instead of looking on as if at a massive Wimbledon tournament where necks are first turned to one end of the court and then to the other.

At the back of Mr. Marshall's mind there is the thought that by keeping out of the European family conclave, by going into temporary isolation, Russia may be induced to follow suit. It may be a surprising statement, but nevertheless a true one, that the United States Secretary of State is a critic of what is called "dollar diplomacy." Such diplomacy can eventually pile up a much bigger debt, through another and not so distant war, than the sum total of Europe's present bankruptcy.

The American withdrawal

THE temporary withdrawal of America can be described as one of the major facts of history. It is pregnant with more possibilities than the mind can instantly comprehend. Whether consciously or through blind intuition America has put the Russian type of diplomacy "on the spot," and forced a choice upon Europe. From this moment no charge can be made against America of unwarranted interference in European politics. If Russia, once America has withdrawn, continues to seek self-aggrandisement, she will automatically indict herself and will stand self-condemned. If one bankrupt nation is deprived of the right or the opportunity to rebuild itself on sure foundations it will be through Russian culpability. What, then, can prevent America coming back into Europe with all the traditional panoply of power politics? And what further justification will she require?

Next week's commentator

ROY SHERWOOD

ISLE OF MAN C.O.'s SENTENCE REDUCED

No further prosecution

THE repeated prosecution of John Stanley Bridson for failing to attend a medical examination has attracted a good deal of public attention in the Isle of Man, reports the Central Board for C.O.s. On June 24 the Speaker announced in the House of Keys that he had received the following letter from the Government Secretary:

"The Governor wishes me to let you know that he has reviewed the case of John Stanley Bridson now undergoing a sentence of imprisonment (three months) for refusing to submit to medical examination under the National Service Acts, and in the light of all the circumstances has granted a reduction of 28 days in the sentence."

When Mr. H. J. Teare asked: "Have we any assurance as to the future?" the Speaker replied that he understood when the present sentence had been served no further steps would be taken in the matter.

It is also understood that the whole matter of the extension of the National Service Acts, including the No. 2 Act of 1941, which relates to qualifying sentences, will be reviewed when the Bill now before the British Parliament becomes law.

Labour pacifists and Conscription

"AS pacifists we are, of course, opposed to all armed forces, whether voluntary or conscript," says a recent statement on conscription issued by the Labour Pacifist Fellowship, "and while we would be prepared to urge immediate unilateral disarmament, being confident that such a courageous lead would break the circle of suspicion and fear, and give us the moral leadership for which the world is waiting, we recognise that the Government will not adopt such a policy because our people are not prepared for it and are unwilling to take the risks it undoubtedly entails."

"We therefore urge the Government to press on with that side of its work which results in the substitution of discussion and accommodation in the place of conflict; to continue to promote reconciliation between the nations; to press on its work for simultaneous disarmament and the international control of atomic energy; to stimulate social, economic and political co-operation between the nations through the appropriate organs of UNO; to draw together the social-democratic forces of the world for the special forms of co-operation for which their institutions are so well adapted; believing that these actions are likely to lead to the progressive elimination of the power factor in international politics and the substitution of other means for the settlement of international differences and the early elimination of conscription throughout the world."

FIRE BRIGADES' UNION AND C.O.s

After a heated debate, reports the Daily Mirror, the Bournemouth Conference of the Fire Brigades' Union recently carried a resolution that wartime conscientious objectors who were directed into the NFS but now have permanent jobs should be dismissed, but allowed to rejoin as recruits.

There were cries of "rubbish" when Mr. H. Hodgson, Portsmouth, described some conscientious objectors as "some of the biggest social parasites in this country."

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LETTERS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

Something to praise!

AS a persistent critic of the Government's treatment of PoWs, may I change my tune for once?

The Evening Standard (June 21) reported that a group of ten German women from the British Zone were coming to England for a six-week course at Wilton Park, the PoW "university" for political re-education. This is good news. For it will provide an opportunity for the men and women to meet (many of the men have not met a German woman for years).

I've just been looking through some notebooks and other Wilton Park literature belonging to a PoW friend and they are excellent. What he tells of this "great institution," as he calls it, is not only confirmed by detailed reports from two other friends, but also from non-prisoner sources. Many are most anxious to go there.

I've found the men themselves soon get to know whether something connected with their interest is of value or not, and this desire is a most welcome and encouraging sign, not only of the success of the experiment, but also of a desire in some men for a new and more lasting and constructive ideology.

Mr. McNeil, in the Commons, June 18, said it is not yet possible to assess the results of this experiment, although material is now being collected for a comprehensive study. He added: "The Control Commission is studying the possibility of extending re-educational activities in Germany, and of securing help from repatriated prisoners of war in this task." This is being done because, as repatriation proceeds, the main re-education work must be done in Germany. In view of the many reports of the success of such centres as Wilton Park and Radwinter camp, this news is welcomed.

It is true that in many camps educational facilities are deplorable: much more effort and imagination is required to bring them up to a reasonable standard. But let us be fair and give credit where it is due. It is my belief the success of these re-educational centres should be much more widely known.

KEITH C. TREACHER.

35 Silverdale Road,
Hove, 4.

The Christian Party

READING the review in Peace News of Raymond Marchand's book caused me to wonder whether all the readers of Peace News were aware that there is in this country a National and International Christian Party, which was set up about eight years ago. Of its members a considerable number are members of the PPU. It has:

- (a) sought to bring into harmonious activity all Christian pacifists;
- (b) supported ALL pacifist candidates during the war;
- (c) carried on a campaign during war time for Peace by Negotiation. Ten thousand of Ruth Fry's pamphlet "Why not try the Christian Way?" have been sold;
- (d) put up three candidates in Municipal Elections;
- (e) had a member as a Christian Candidate at the last General Election;
- (f) established a Community Work Scheme without borrowing any money on which interest is paid;
- (g) carried on a vigorous campaign against conscription;
- (h) established a monthly Journal. Its editor has regular articles in a Ceylon paper.

G. NORMAN ROBBINS,
Chairman, The Christian Party.
St. Kenelm's,
Silverlands Avenue, Oldbury,
Birmingham.

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